

such as California, Colorado, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin over the last few years. H.R. 2352 seeks to curb that stem of violence.

H.R. 2352 increases authorized annual funding from \$30 million to \$50 million for FY 2008–2009 for the Secure Our Schools grant program, and decreases the non-Federal grant participation percentage from 50 percent to 20 percent. It requires institutions of higher education to conduct annual campus safety assessments and develop and implement campus emergency response plans.

This bill seeks to address the violence in our schools. It will ensure the safety of students and teachers and will make sure that education is the paramount concern of educators.

The Act also increases the Federal portion of the funding from 50 percent to 80 percent, which decreases the non-Federal portion from 50 percent to 20 percent. According to the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, Office of the Department of Justice, which administers the Secure Our Schools grants, many of the poorer communities that need help the most have been unable to participate in the program because they cannot afford the previously required 50 percent non-federal grant match. The proposed change in non-Federal funding is more in line with the COPS traditional 75/25 percent split, and should allow more participation in the program.

The Act increases the possible uses of funding to include surveillance equipment, hotlines to report potentially dangerous situations and capital improvements to make school facilities more secure. Finally, the Act requires the establishment of an interagency task force to develop and promulgate advisory school safety guidelines.

The Act amends the existing requirements for grant applications, and requires each grant application to be accompanied by a report, signed by the chief education officer and the attorney general or other chief legal officer, demonstrating that the proposed use of the grant funds is an effective means for improving school safety, is consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence, and meets the individualized needs of the particular school.

Finally, the Act amends the Higher Education Act and requires each eligible participating institution to conduct an annual campus safety assessment, and develop and implement a campus emergency response plan to address emergency situations, including natural disasters, active shooter situations, and terrorist attacks. The bill is sponsored by Mr. ROTHMAN, and has 52 cosponsors.

MY THREE AMENDMENTS THAT WERE OFFERED AND
ACCEPTED

I have three amendments that I offered and that were accepted concerning this bill. The first extended the current requirement of establishing a hotline or tip line to include the reporting of hazardous conditions, including the presence of hazardous chemicals.

The second one requires schools to develop and implement safety measures to protect students in the event of a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation. It would further require that no funds would be disbursed unless the school had a safety plan in place to respond to a terrorist attack or other hazardous condition or situation.

The need for schools to respond to hazardous conditions or situations is necessary because often children are confronted with hazardous conditions and they simply ignore them. This has been a big problem in the Houston Independent School district. For example, in Key Middle School students were getting sick because they were learning in classrooms where mold was growing on the walls and ceilings. The students saw the mold and were getting sick but they did not know how to respond. These amendments would ensure that children are aware of the toxicity of these chemicals and organic substances. This is a real threat. Key Middle School was subsequently closed because of the severe health risks posed to students. My call for student awareness, training, and prevention as pertains to a terrorist attack does not need much explanation. In light of the tragic events of 9/11, we can never be too cautious with schooling and protecting our children. Children need to know what to do and how to respond to dangerous situations during a terrorist threat.

My last amendment goes to the heart of administrative practice. The original bill required that a taskforce create guideline. Because the taskforce is to be established within 30 days of enactment of this act, my amendment allows the taskforce to convene and within 60 days issue a preliminary advisory school safety guideline and after that time it should provide the public with an opportunity through notice and comment and publish a final advisory school safety guideline not later than 30 days after the preliminary guidelines. This is good administrative practice and ensures public participation by students, teachers, and parents.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF STANLEY REED

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the commitment and service, my friend Stanley Reed provides to Arkansas youth.

Stanley is a leader in the state, serving as President of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, a former member of the Arkansas Board of Trustees, a board member of Baptist Health, and Simmons First National Corporation and a member of the Board of Advisors of the Arkansas World Trade Center and of the Brandon Burlsworth Foundation.

His professional achievements are far reaching, and so are his accomplishments away from the Board Rooms. Stanley spends much of his time and energy being an example for Arkansas youths and helping them lead a better life.

Stanley's life of service will be honored by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe and the Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches, an organization that provides a stable living environment with responsible role models.

Stanley has been a very good friend and was a teammate at the University of Arkansas. He has been blessed with a wonderful family, his wife Charlene, son Nathan and daughters Hailey and Anna.

I have had the privilege to work with Stanley throughout my professional career. His dedication, persistence and leadership are all exemplary qualities. I appreciate his friendship and example. I am honored to have had the opportunity to have worked with such a great man, and thank him for his service.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL BRUCE CARLSON

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to pay tribute to United States Air Force General Bruce Carlson for his 37 years of distinguished and honorable service in the United States Air Force and to our Nation.

General Carlson has had a distinguished career, beginning with his graduation from the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Minnesota. He has held numerous flying assignments, staff and command positions throughout his career. He commanded the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman Air Force Base, the Air Force's first stealth fighter wing. His staff assignments included time at HQ AF, the office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff. Prior to serving as Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, General Carlson served as Commander of the 8th Air Force, Barksdale AFB and Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, U. S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB.

As Commander of AFMC, General Carlson led the organization to meet leadership challenges and world threats. General Carlson championed the Air Force alternative fuels program and delivered on Presidential and Secretary of the Air Force challenges to reduce the military's dependence on foreign oil. General Carlson also oversaw the development and deployment of AngelFire persistent surveillance and reconnaissance program. Under his command, AngelFire deployed to the CENTCOM AOR with the help of Air Force Research Laboratory personnel, marking the first-ever deployment of an AFRL program directly into combat. Additionally, General Carlson delivered the first MQ-9 Reaper to the 42nd Attack Squadron at Creech AFB nearly a year ahead of schedule to meet Air Combat Command requirements.

He received numerous military awards for his service including: Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He also received the highest honor from the Air Force enlisted corps, the Order of the Sword. In addition, General Carlson is a command pilot with over 3,300 flight hours.

I have known General Carlson since he took command of AFMC in August 2005.

General Carlson is a man who is honest, provides a straight assessment and has the highest degree of ethics. His service honors the Air Force and our country. I've appreciated his dedication to duty and his willingness to work with the surrounding community. General Carlson truly exemplifies the core values of

the Air Force, "Integrity First, Service Before Self, Excellence in All We Do."

CONGRATULATING HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD ISD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, faculty, and staff from Hurst-Euleless-Bedford Independent School District on receiving the prestigious honor of being named the Top District in the State of Texas by Education Resource Group.

Education Resource Group looks at the 200 largest districts in the state, which enroll the majority of students who attend Texas Public schools. Giving careful consideration to academic, demographic, staffing, and financial information, they determine the award recipient. The award measures the relationship between operating expenditures and student achievement.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD. The district strives to provide an exceptional education to its students, and has received national recognition for its outstanding academic, athletic, and fine arts programs. The district maintains a high quality faculty and staff who host a learning environment that promotes character, achievement, and personal responsibility.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent many of the students, faculty, and staff of Hurst-Euleless-Bedford ISD in the 26th District of Texas. Their outstanding educational standards set a great example for all academic institutions. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING JAVIER LOPEZ, M.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my dearest friend and mentor, Javier Lopez, M.D., whose advocacy, love and devotion on behalf of his second family—all of us privileged to be in his care—has made our lives stronger by not only his medical brilliance, but even more significantly, by his kindness, wisdom, compassion, and selfless service in healing our broken bodies and broken hearts.

As a life long advocate on behalf of the poor, the isolated and the elderly, Dr. Lopez lives the principles of his Roman Catholic faith by serving as an instrument of peace and hope every day, as he has done for nearly 50 years along Broadway Avenue. His vocation of healing will continue, as his practice evolves from his daily routine on Broadway Avenue to continuing his missions of medical miracles, ministering to the poor of Colombia, Honduras and to places in the world where medical resources are few yet the need is great.

As a young man, Dr. Lopez journeyed to Cleveland from his homeland of Medellin, Colombia, to complete his residency at St. Alexis

Hospital—saying farewell to his family, friends and to the rich culture of Colombia. The people of North and South Broadway were immediately taken by Dr. Lopez' integrity, kindness, compassion and humble nature, and he was also moved by the kindness and gratitude shown to him. Dr. Lopez could have set up his practice in any suburb, but he chose to remain on the tough streets of Cleveland, where he was needed the most.

For the past 50 years, Dr. Lopez' practice was entrenched with a rare and genuine love, concern, compassion and respect for every patient—young, old, of every race and of every economic background.

His most impactful work has been, and continues to be his service to the poor. In our country, where the uninsured are routinely denied health care, they found solace at the office of Dr. Lopez. He never turned anyone away for lack of insurance, nor inability to pay.

Dr. Lopez continues to be a champion of health care justice and reform. He is an outspoken activist in support of universal health care; he has fought diligently on behalf of his patients when crooked health insurers refused to pay, and he worked tirelessly to stop the closing of St. Michael Hospital. After St. Michael's ultimately fell to a system wrought with corruption and greed, Dr. Lopez could have moved his practice away from North Broadway—but it was never even considered—he stayed where he was needed the most.

Dr. Lopez' dedication to his patients is eclipsed only by his devotion to his family. His wife of more than 50 years, Nancy Lopez, has been and continues to be his strongest source of support, love and friendship.

His sons David and Daniel, David's wife Priscilla, his granddaughter Ana and his daughter-in-law to be, Carmen Nogales—continue to be the center and light of his world.

Dr. Lopez's office manager, Toni Maruszak, has been an invaluable and consistent source of support to Dr. Lopez for more than a decade. Her amazing memory, excellent organizational skills and ability to juggle a million things at once always ensured that the office ran smoothly.

More importantly, Toni's remarkable interpersonal skills and great sense of humor provided comfort and reassurance for countless patients during difficult moments.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of Dr. Javier Lopez. Despite his great achievements in medicine, he remains humble, grateful and virtually egoless. He offers the same kindness and attention to the homeless alcoholic as he does to the successful CEO. He is the heart and soul of Broadway Avenue—there is no one like him and he is irreplaceable.

His presence here has been a gift of healing and hope for countless people, including myself and my family—and will continue to be. Dr. Lopez walks shoulder to shoulder in the ranks of healers like Gandhi and Mother Teresa—guided by faith and a genuine belief in the words—"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."

Vaya con Dios, mi amigo—de hoy, mañana, y siempre.

Go with God, my friend—today, tomorrow and forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the record a "yes" vote for rollcall vote 671. I was present in the chamber on September 29, 2008, and thought my vote had been cast on the rule but was not counted.

TRIBUTE TO SGT. RICHARD E. REYES

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true patriot serving in our military, Sergeant Richard E. Reyes. Sgt. Reyes serves proudly in the United States Marine Corps, and hails from Sanger, California. He has recently been named the USO Service Marine of the Year, and I want to send my sincere congratulations.

Sgt. Reyes served as team leader with Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 6, which is stationed in Iraq. While serving in the Persian Gulf, Sgt. Reyes led his team on 70 combat missions and was instrumental in the capture of over 35 insurgents. During combat operations in July 2007, his platoon's base came under enemy attack with small arms and machinegun fire. Located just 250 meters from the ambush, Sgt. Reyes maneuvered onto a nearby rooftop, identified the insurgents, and relayed the enemy's location to the platoon commander.

He was still undetected by the enemy, and he and his team engaged the insurgent group with high explosive rounds, which reduced enemy fire on the base, but exposed his position on the rooftop. Sgt. Reyes was determined to end this engagement, which had been going on for 45 minutes. He then moved his team onto another rooftop and single-handedly directed attacks by U.S. jets and helicopters. After several attempts, the enemy's position was destroyed.

Just 3 days later, Sgt. Reyes again demonstrated superb leadership and courage when he engaged an insurgent from the rooftop of his platoon's base and directed a counter-attack. During the firefight, Sgt. Reyes and his team maintained their position and coordinated a diversion using artillery smoke. As a result of his initiative, perseverance, and dedication to duty, an additional two insurgents were captured in this engagement.

Sgt. Reyes is a Sanger High School graduate, and while he was there, he was a three sport athlete. He played for his school's water polo team in the fall, he wrestled in the winter, and swam in the spring. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at age 17. Sgt. Reyes is the son of Rosa and Gustavo Reyes, and he has two brothers and two sisters.

On behalf of all my colleagues in the House and Senate, I would like to congratulate Sgt. Richard Reyes for being named the USO